

The opinion in support of the order being entered today was not written
for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

Paper No. 16

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAILED

FEB 28 2002

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

PAT. & T.M. OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte RICHARD C. WILSON and PATRICK M. CULPEPPER

Appeal No. 2001-2331
Application No. 09/391,294

ORDER

Before STONER, Chief Administrative Patent Judge, HARKCOM, Vice Chief
Administrative Patent Judge, and NASE, Administrative Patent Judge.

NASE, Administrative Patent Judge.

This is an order under 37 CFR § 1.196(d). 37 CFR § 1.196(d) provides:

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences may require appellant to address any matter that is deemed appropriate for a reasoned decision on the pending appeal. Appellant will be given a non-extendable time period within which to respond to such a requirement.

Thus, 37 CFR § 1.196(d) authorizes the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (Board) to require an appellant to clarify the record by addressing any matter deemed appropriate for a reasoned decision on the appeal.

BACKGROUND

One issue on appeal is whether claims 1 to 5 have been properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 251 as being an improper recapture of broadened claimed subject matter surrendered in the application for the patent upon which the present reissue is based.

The appellants filed their appeal brief on March 21, 2001 (Paper No. 13).

The case of Pannu v. Storz Instruments, Inc., 258 F.3d 1366, 59 USPQ2d 1597 (Fed. Cir. 2001), was decided on July 25, 2001.


In Pannu the Court in discussing the recapture rule stated that "[o]n reissue, [patentee] is estopped from attempting to recapture the precise limitation [patentee] added to overcome prior art rejections." 258 F.3d at 1372, 59 USPQ2d at 1601.

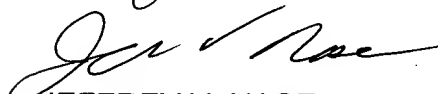
ORDER

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.196(d), the appellants are required to file a Supplemental Appeal Brief to address the impact the Pannu decision has on the rejection before us in this appeal.

The appellants are given a non-extendable time period of **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this order for response thereto. Failure to respond within this **TWO MONTH** time period will result in the dismissal of the appeal. Since there are no allowed claims, the dismissal of the appeal will result in the abandonment of this application.¹


BRUCE H. STONER, JR.
Chief Administrative Patent Judge


GARY V. HARKCOM
Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge


JEFFREY V. NASE
Administrative Patent Judge

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¹ See MPEP § 1215.04.

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